

POLREP

Date: August 10, 1992
From: ~~Charles Gehlan, OSC, U.S. EPA, Region V~~
To: Terri Johnson, OSWER (202)260-9155
Bob Bowden, EERB
Daniel O'Riordan, OPA (312)353-1155
Don Bruce, EERB
Maureen O'Mara, EERB (312)353-9176
US Fish and Wildlife Service, IN. (812)334-4273
US Coast Guard District 9 (216)522-2738
Gregory Dunn, IEPA (217)524-4193
Richard Gladstein, U.S. DOJ (202)514-1692
Terry Branigan, ORC
Subject: MORECO-Pierce Waste Oil Services Site
Springfield, IL.
Polrep No: Polrep 1
Site No: RS
D.O. No: 7460-05-238
Response Auth.: CERCLA/Emergency Response
NPL Status: NON-NPL
Start Date: 7/30/92

I3
8/10/92

SITUATION:

The MORECO-Pierce Waste Oil Services Site is an inactive waste oil recycling facility located at 1925 East Madison Street. The site is situated on approximately 4 acres of land in an industrial and residential area on the Northeast side of Springfield. The property is surrounded by a chain link fence with locked gates, but sections of the fence are missing. The site is bordered by Sangomo Construction Co. property on the north, by the Illinois Central Gulf Railroad (ICGR), Capital City Ready Mix, and Contractor City Lumber on the east, and the ICGR and open areas to the west and south. Residential areas are located 700 feet west of the site (see attached site map).

The site contains 86 aboveground storage tanks, 2 known underground storage tanks, and 2500 drums which contain waste oils, petroleum refinery wastes, chlorinated solvents, and acids. There are nine buildings on-site which were used for offices, storage, maintenance, utility sheds and production. Other features of the site include oil recycling equipment (heaters, boilers, condensers, and separators), diked and bermed areas, and miscellaneous metal debris.

MORECO Energy Inc. is the present owner of the site, and is currently involved in Chapter 11 Bankruptcy proceedings. In part, MORECO's plan for reorganization includes abandonment of the site and two other sites in Illinois. US EPA Region 5, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA), and the US Dept. of Justice are involved with the Bankruptcy proceedings.

On March 13, 1992 IEPA requested that US EPA evaluate the site for a removal action, to address abandoned wastes in tanks and drums, and soil and groundwater contamination from past releases. OSC Gebien and TAT conducted a removal action site assessment (SA) on March 11, 1992. The SA Report was completed on 5/22/92, and recommended the removal of approximately: 400,000 gallons of liquid wastes from tanks and drums, 100,000 gallons of sludge wastes, 1,767 cu. yds. of contaminated soils, 500 cu. yds. of contaminated debris, and 88 tons of scrap steel from the tanks at an estimated total cost of 4.7 million dollars.

On 7/30/92 at approximately 1:30 pm, Mr. James A. Jannsen P.E., Manager, Remedial Project Management Section, IEPA contacted OSC Charlie Gebien and Donald Bruce, Chief Emergency Response Section II, US EPA, and requested U.S. EPA's assistance in controlling a release of rainwater/oily waste from the captioned site's tank farm containment systems. Mr. Jannsen indicated that Mr. Gregory Dunn, Project Manager, IEPA, visited the site earlier in the day, and observed rainwater/oily waste overflowing the site's containment systems. Mr. Dunn indicated that the spillage was migrating off-site into a ditch which flows along the southeast boundary of the site to a storm sewer, which discharges to Spring Creek and the Sangaman River. Mr. Dunn was concerned that continuing heavy rains that were forecasted for the Springfield Area would result in a major release of oily wastes to the Sangaman River.

ACTIONS TAKEN:

7/30/92

-Mr. Robert Bowden, Chief, Emergency and Enforcement Response Branch verbally authorized an initial funding of \$20,000 for ERCS to control the release and arrange for packaging and disposal of the wastes.

-At approximately 3:45 pm OSC Gebien contacted Frank Lappin, Technical Director MORECO, by telephone and notified Mr. Lappin of the ongoing release of oily wastes from the site and of US EPA's plans to contain the release. Mr. Lappin indicated that he probably could provide a tank truck to pump the containment systems, but could not provide clean up workers with OSHA required training to pump the wastes. OSC Gebien then informed Mr. Lappin that US EPA would respond with workers, portable lighting, and pumps that evening, to ensure that timely action would be taken to control the release.

-At 7:15pm OSC Gebien and two OH Material cleanup technicians (OHM Crew) arrived at the site and met with Mr. Dunn. The OHM crew set up the portable lighting and a generator at the southeast side of the site on the catwalk of the tank farm. The Technical Assistance Team (TAT) representative arrived and conducted air monitoring in the tank farm area.

-At approximately 8:30pm Mr. Lappin and the tank truck arrived and pumped the oily water from the tank farm containment system which housed tanks 79, 80, 81, 82, and 83. Oil wastes/water were pumped into tank 81. Two loads of 3,000 gallons each were pumped from the containment system. At the direction of OSC Gebien the tank truck was moved to the sump area on the northeast area of the site adjacent to the clay/oil mixer. This area contained approximately 3,000 gallons that was pumped to tank 79. The last area to be pumped was the sump adjacent to tank 70 on the northeast side of the site. This area also contained approximately 3,000 gallons and was pumped to tank 79. After pumping was completed, Mr. Lappin collected samples from tanks 79 and 81 for analyses at MORECO McCook. Mr. Lappin left the site at 12:30am. OSC Gebien, TAT, and Mr. Dunn remained on site for about one hour to dismantle and clean the lighting equipment and secure the gate.

7/31/92

-At 9:30am OSC Gebien and TAT returned to the site to observe the site in daylight and to photograph and sample areas affected by the release. Samples were collected from four off-site locations where oily wastes appeared to migrate (see attached site map).

NEXT STEPS:

-Obtain and review analytical results from Blank Laboratories for the four samples collected from areas affected by the release. Determine if the soil contamination poses a threat and requires removal.

-Complete action memorandum for securing site as described below.

KEY ISSUES:

On 8/6/92 US EPA issued General Notices of Potential Liability to MORECO, for the Pierce Waste Oil Service Inc. Site/Springfield, IL., the A.A. Waste Oil Site/Rock Island, IL., and the Dunavan Oil Site/Oakwood, IL. The Notices informed MORECO that US EPA intends to install secure fencing, secure all open tanks and containers, and maintain capacity in containment systems at each of the sites. MORECO was given five days to respond and has not responded to date.

COST INFORMATION:

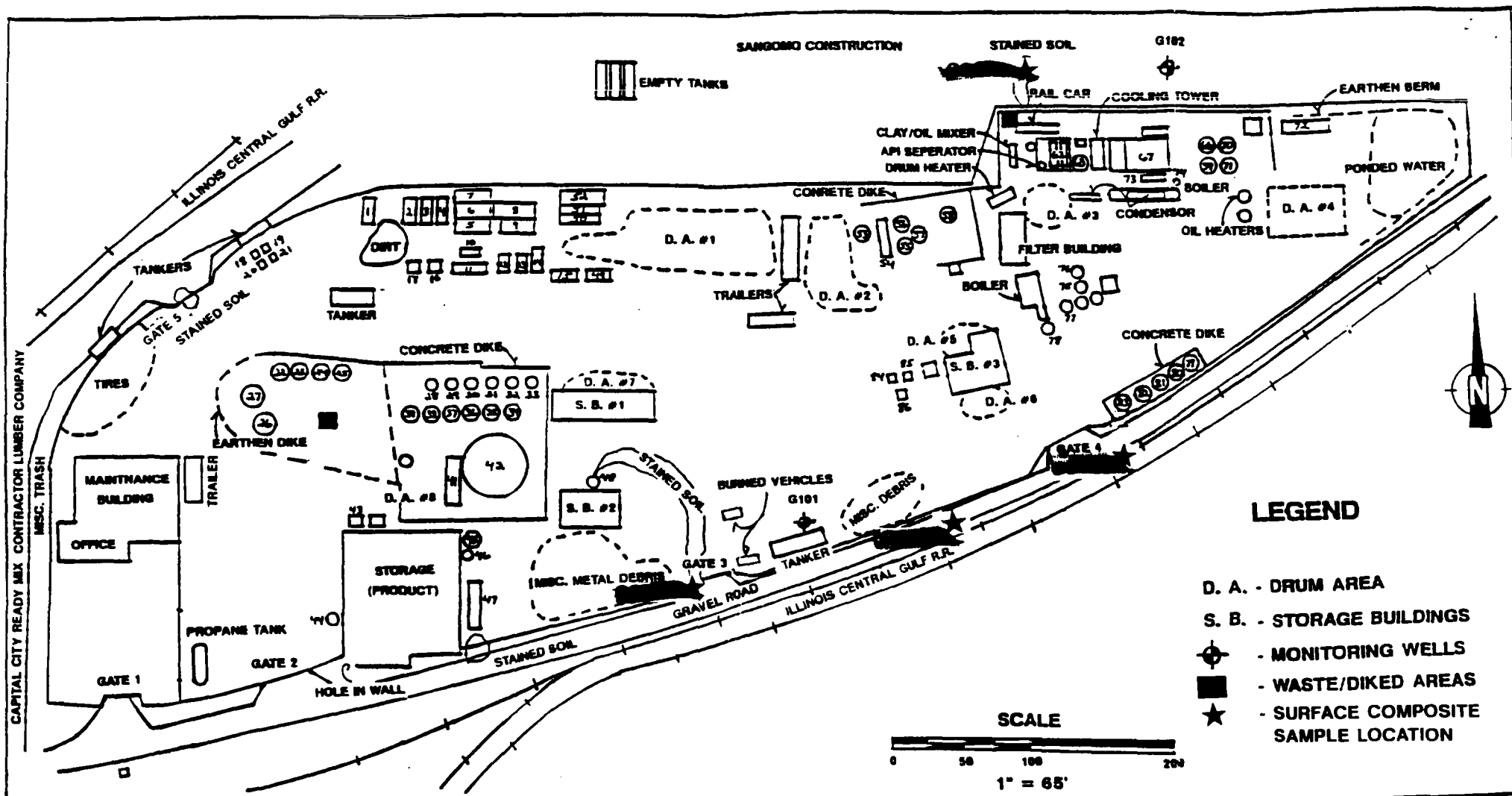
TO DATE

CEILING

non

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QUADRANGLE LOCATION 		ecology and environment, inc. Technical Assistance Team Region V	
TITLE SAMPLE LOCATION MAP		FIGURE # 2	
SITE PIERCE WASTE OIL SERVICE INC.		SCALE 1" = 65'	
CITY SPRINGFIELD	STATE ILLINOIS	PAR EIL0167FAA	

FIELD PHOTOGRAPHY LOG SHEET

SITE NAME: Pierce Oil (MORECO)

PAGE 1 OF 5

U.S.EPA ID: RS

TDD: T05-9207-029

PAN: EIL0167SAA

DATE: 7/30/92

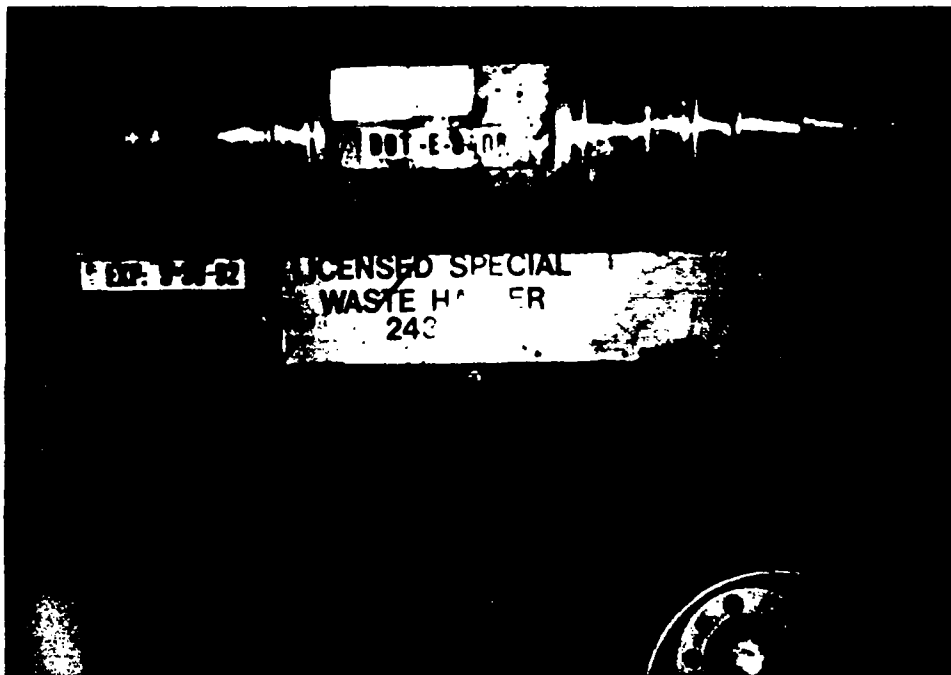
TIME: N/A

DIRECTION OF
PHOTOGRAPH:
N/A

WEATHER
CONDITIONS:
Overcast,
72°F

PHOTOGRAPHED BY:
K. Rydzewski

SAMPLE ID
(if applicable):
N/A



DESCRIPTION: Best Environmental's 3,000-gallon vacuum truck
supplied by MORECO to empty containment areas.

DATE: 7/31/92

TIME: N/A

DIRECTION OF
PHOTOGRAPH:
Northeast

WEATHER
CONDITIONS:
Overcast,
72°F

PHOTOGRAPHED BY:
K. Rydzewski

SAMPLE ID
(if applicable):
N/A



DESCRIPTION: Area south of site where overflow from the
containment area migrated off-site.

FIELD PHOTOGRAPHY LOG SHEET

SITE NAME: Pierce Oil (MORECO)

PAGE 2 OF 5

U.S.EPA ID: RS

TDD: T05-9207-029

PAN: EIL0167SAA

DATE: 7/31/92

TIME: N/A

DIRECTION OF
PHOTOGRAPH:
Southwest

WEATHER
CONDITIONS:
Overcast,
~72°F

PHOTOGRAPHED BY:
C. Gebien

SAMPLE ID
(if applicable):
N/A



DESCRIPTION: Containment area on northeast side of site.

DATE: 7/31/92

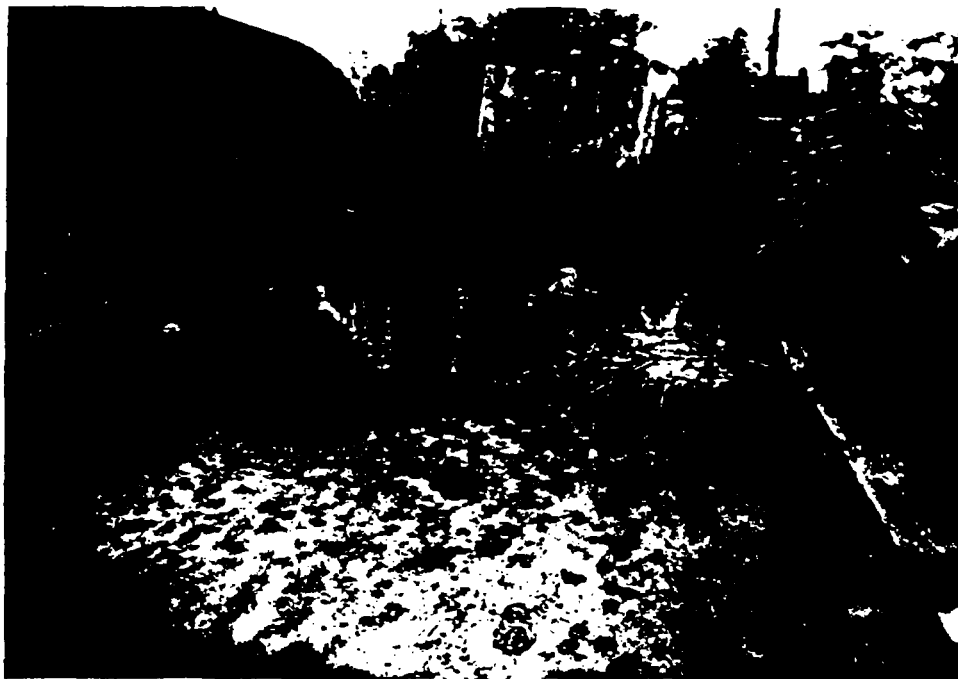
TIME: N/A

DIRECTION OF
PHOTOGRAPH:
West

WEATHER
CONDITIONS:
Overcast,
~72°F

PHOTOGRAPHED BY:
C. Gebien

SAMPLE ID
(if applicable):
N/A



DESCRIPTION: Sump on west end of containment area that had been
emptied the night before, 7-30-92.

FIELD PHOTOGRAPHY LOG SHEET

SITE NAME: Pierce Oil (MORECO)

PAGE 3 OF 5

U.S.EPA ID: RS

TDD: T05-9207-029

PAN: EIL0167SAA

DATE: 7/31/92

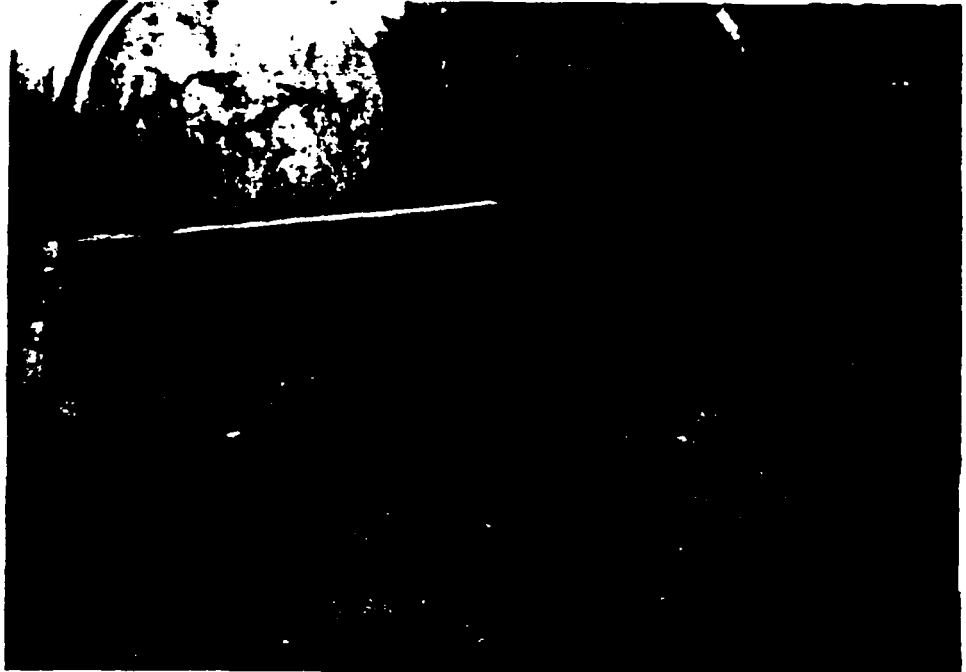
TIME: N/A

DIRECTION OF
PHOTOGRAPH:
Southeast

WEATHER
CONDITIONS:
Overcast,
72°F

PHOTOGRAPHED BY:
C. Gebien

SAMPLE ID
(if applicable):
N/A



DESCRIPTION: Sump on east end of site which had been emptied by
the PRP on the night of 7-30-92.

DATE: 7/31/92

TIME: N/A

DIRECTION OF
PHOTOGRAPH:
Northwest

WEATHER
CONDITIONS:
Overcast,
72°F

PHOTOGRAPHED BY:
C. Gebien

SAMPLE ID
(if applicable):



DESCRIPTION: Oil soaked area on north side of site.

FIELD PHOTOGRAPHY LOG SHEET

SITE NAME: Pierce Oil (MORECO)

PAGE 4 OF 5

U.S.EPA ID: RS

TDD: T05-9207-029

PAN: EIL0167SAA

DATE: 7/31/92

TIME: N/A

DIRECTION OF
PHOTOGRAPH:
N/A

WEATHER
CONDITIONS:
Overcast,
72°F

PHOTOGRAPHED BY:
C. Gebien

SAMPLE ID
(if applicable):
OS101



DESCRIPTION: View of the area off-site where sample OS101 was
collected. This area is the oil soaked area north of the site.

DATE: 7/31/92

TIME: N/A

DIRECTION OF
PHOTOGRAPH:
North

WEATHER
CONDITIONS:
Overcast,
72°F

PHOTOGRAPHED BY:
K. Rydzewski

SAMPLE ID
(if applicable):
OS102



DESCRIPTION: Perspective view of sample OS102 collected just south
of the containment area which had overflowed.

FIELD PHOTOGRAPHY LOG SHEET

SITE NAME: Pierce Oil (MORECO)

PAGE 5 OF 5

U.S.EPA ID: RS

TDD: T05-9207-029

PAN: EIL0167SAA

DATE: 7/31/92

TIME: N/A

DIRECTION OF
PHOTOGRAPH:
Southwest

WEATHER
CONDITIONS:
Overcast,
~72°F

PHOTOGRAPHED BY:
K. Rydzewski

SAMPLE ID
(if applicable):
OS103



DESCRIPTION: View of area where sample OS103 was collected. This
area is located south of the site and north of the Illinois
Central Gulf Railroad tracks.

DATE: 7/31/92

TIME: N/A

DIRECTION OF
PHOTOGRAPH:
Northeast

WEATHER
CONDITIONS:
Overcast,
~72°F

PHOTOGRAPHED BY:
K. Rydzewski

SAMPLE ID
(if applicable):
OS104



DESCRIPTION: View of area where sample OS104 was collected. This
area is located south of the entrance to Gate 3.